Excise.

(No. 35.)

SUBJECT No. 35.

Amendment of the Excise Regulation in certain respects.

Mr. B. Kasaviah, Chikmagalur Taluk and Mr. N. Nanjundiah, Chikmagalur Municipality.

Mr. M. Karnik Krishnamurti Rao.—We want the time-limit for tapping trees to be reduced to three months as formerly. The new time-limit of four months is a source of loss to owners of toddy trees as the contractor goes on tapping the tree all the time and it gets badly damaged and there cannot be a watch in all cases.

Second Member.—In British India the time allowed is one year.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao.—There will be all the more over-tapping. To prevent this the time limit must be reduced. If trees are spoiled a damage charge of Rs. 5 per tree may be paid.

Reply of Government.—Government are not convinced of the necessity for any change. At any rate the present practice may continue for a couple of years.

Forest.

(No. 36 to 38.)

SUBJECT No. 36.

Grant of free timber and sites in assessed lands to encourage the building of healthy and convenient houses and cattle sheds.

Messrs. Halappa, Gurulingappa, Giriappa, and Raghavendrappa, Honnali Taluk.

Dewan.—Timber is getting more and more scarce. It may be got at concession rates but not free. These concession rates have not been enhanced.

Mr. Halappa.—The price of articles is going higher and higher and without concessions in the price of timber, we cannot have healthy cattle sheds.

Reply of Government.—About forest matters, the Kannada hand-book promised at the last Session has been printed. Raiyats can understand all forest matters from that book. If after studying the privileges enumerated in it the members have any complaints, they may make a representation to Government and necessary action will be taken.

SUBJECT No. 37.

Exclusion of beedi and *muthaga* leaves from the list of minor forest produce.

Mr. C. Rasoolkhan, Anjuman-E-Islamia, Chikmagalur, Messrs. Suryanaranappa and Hanumegowda, Sidlaghatta Taluk.

The Conservator of Forests.—On *muthaga* nothing is charged.

A Member.—A fee is being collected, as a matter of fact, in some places.

The Conservator of Forests.—If so it is a mistake.

Dewan.—We do not want to encourage smoking; what charge is being levied now cannot be removed.

Mr. Ananthiah.—Government may then issue licenses for collecting the leaves to individuals. It is a means of livelihood for gosha ladies. At present the right is sold by contract and individuals have to buy the leaves from contractors at high prices.

Dewan.—Beedi leaves must be taxed to discourage smoking. Government have passed orders recently and

are not prepared to reconsider that order. But we shall consider the representation that licenses may be issued to individuals for collecting the leaves.

SUBJECT No. 38.

Modifying the present rule of issuing *mafi rahadari* for the transport of tangadi bark.

Mr. Syed Budan Sab, Hiriyur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Government contractors are put to much loss by holders of *mafi* licenses for the transport of Tangadi bark. The coolies employed by the Government contractors deceive their masters and sell a portion of the bark collected by them to *mafi rahadari* holders by stealth. It is not possible to prevent this mischief so long as the present rules of issuing *mafi rahadari* continue. This difficulty was explained last year and an amendment to the rules requested. Early orders are now solicited in the matter.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao.—Mr. Budan Sab is absent, but the question is important and the other side also must be viewed sympathetically. I have received one or two telegrams that I should urge this point in this Assembly. As far as possible, Government must protect occupants of land on which tangadi grows against the mischief of Government contractors. We must have perfect liberty to sell the things we grow on our lands as we like and not necessarily to the Government contractors.

Dewan.—What is the remedy you suggest ?

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao.—Produce on forests and unoccupied land may generally be given to contractors, but that on an occupied land may be allowed to be disposed of by the owner.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastri.—We cannot be compelled to sell our goods to the particular contractor. If the contractor fears that his contract area will be tampered with he has to keep special watch and protect his property and not to compel us to sell what we have to him.

The Revenue Commissioner.—There is no rule that permits of your being compelled to sell the bark on your land to the Government contractor.

Mr. Karnick Krishamurti Rao.—There is no rule but in practice there is difficulty and we want relief.

Dewan.—Government want to introduce rules for the grant of licenses and the Conservator has submitted proposals for sanction. If when the rules have been passed there is still any difficulty, it may be brought to the notice of Government and will be considered. The object of Government in framing rules will be (i) to protect their tangadi revenue, it being a substantial revenue, and (ii) not to interfere so far as it is unnecessary to do so with the *mafi* licenses. The rules will be published in the Gazette and one month's time allowed before they are introduced.